

#15864

DeHart, June

To: Steinbaum, Jason; eric.jacobstein@mail.house.gov; Gibbs, Francis; Ratliff, Fred
Subject: Of interest. June DeHart

1. Fernandez to head conciliatory group

President Leonel Fernandez will coordinate the mediation of the dispute between heads of state of Venezuela and Colombia. The two countries have a long- running battle of words and their leaders once again squared off at the Rio Summit that took place in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

"We have opened a space in the framework of this Summit for Unity, with the aim of helping reduce the differences between these neighboring countries in a reasonable manner", said Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

Fernandez pointed out that the objective of the Rio Summit in Playa del Carmen to "advance the coordination" of a new political discussion mechanism to solve differences such as those existing between Colombia and Venezuela.

2. Mini-Marshall Plan for Haiti

President Leonel Fernandez has proposed the creation of a "mini-Marshall Plan" for the recovery of Haiti during his participation in the Rio Summit of Unity in Mexico. As a way of financing such a plan the President suggested the Latin American nations set aside a portion of the foreign debt. He went on to tell reporters from Telesur television channel in Mexico that Haiti needed a "long-term and sustainable development plan", and the only way to achieve this was to dedicate at least US\$2 billion a year for the next ten years. President Fernandez specified that the funds would be used for infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and the electric system.

He said that his government would present a proposal on these lines to the World Bank, the Andean Promotion Corporation and the European Union.

The Haitian earthquake, with an estimated death toll of around 300,000, is among the worst natural disasters in recorded history.

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2/25/2010

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To: tim_rieser@appro.senate.gov

Subject: Dominican Response to Haiti Crisis

Hi, Tim: I have been meaning to send along to you a piece prepared by the Embassy a few weeks ago on their response to the earthquake crisis in Haiti. I thought you would find this of interest.

Hope all is well.

June DeHart

The Government of the Dominican Republic has focused substantial resources to assist Haiti. The Dominican aid was the first to arrive in Haiti, and President Fernandez was the first foreign leader to visit Port-au-Prince. The night of the earthquake President Fernandez met with his emergency team and instructed massive aid with the participation of multi-government agencies. The next morning the Secretaries of Defense, Health and Human Services, Construction and Communication were in Port-au-Prince with a convoy of aid (food, water, mattresses, blanket, etc). An airplane of the Air Force arrived with food and water.

The Dominican Republic was the first to stop repatriation of undocumented Haitians, and since the Government has opened its border to injured Haitians, and thousands have been treated in the public and private hospitals.

The Social Cabinet has sent twenty-eight mobile kitchens with the capacity to produce 300,000 daily meal rations.

The Dominican Government also sent more than 50 trucks with food not requiring cooking and thousands of bottles of water. The water institutions (National Institute of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Water Supply and Sewage Corporation of Santo Domingo (CAASD) have distributed through Friday, January 22nd, 675 thousand 800 gallons of drinking water.

46 doctors were sent to Port-au-Prince including 10 trauma experts, with 8 mobile clinics and 8 ambulances. Approximately 8,000 have been vaccinated against the tetanus and diphtheria. 14 thousand victims of the earthquake have been treated, with an investment of 200 million pesos.

The Civil Defense, the Dominican Red Cross and Public Health Ministry are helping transport victims with 150 daily flights carrying humanitarian aid from different areas. Other agencies that are helping daily is the Dominican Red Cross, by sending 3 thousand bags of blood of 500 cc each.

100 units of heavy construction equipment were sent to Haiti to help clear the rubble.

The Customs Department opened its port to facilitate humanitarian aid that has been sent from abroad.

The Dominican Navy is moving hundreds of tons of humanitarian supplies to Haiti, using the patrol boat Capotillo PM-204 that left the port of Cabo Rojo on the southwestern coast of the Dominican Republic bound for Jacmel, on Haiti's south coast.

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The Office of the First Lady is providing psychological assistance to children. Also the General Hospital at Plaza de la Salud has prepared its Crisis and Trauma Care teams to provide psychological assistance to Dominicans and Haitians affected by the earthquake. The free treatment started at the Plaza de la Salud Primary Care Center, but then moved on to the border area. Specialized unit for treating children are available.

The response from the private sector and the people of the Dominican Republic has been also enormous. Hundreds of collection centers are cropping up all over the country to accept donations. Supermarket advertising campaigns have been replaced by appeals for aid for Haiti.

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